

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 12292 201042Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4729

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E.O. N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: SOHYO LABOR UNION ADOPTS POLICY OPPOSING PRESIDENT
FORD'S VISIT

1. SUMMARY. SOHYO (GENERAL COUNCIL OF JAPANESE TRADE UNIONS)
SEPT 19 ADOPTED AS PART OF ITS AUTUMN STRUGGLE
POLICY OBJECTIVES OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT; BUT
MINISTRY OF LABOR FEELS THIS OPPOSITION PURELY SYMBOLIC,
THAT INFLATION MAIN PROBLEM BOTHERING WORKERS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO TOKYO SHIMBUN SEPT 20 "THE REASON WHY SOHYO
INCLUDED OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO JAPAN IN ITS
STRUGGLE TO BLOCK REACTIONARY POLITICS IS BECAUSE IT JUDGES THAT
THE AIMS OF HIS VISIT LIE IN FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) THE
STRENGTHENING OF THE MILITARY ALLIANCE BETWEEN JAPANESE
AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM: (B) THE STRENGTHENING OF
THE INCORPORATION OF JAPAN INTO AMERICA'S STRATEGIC
SETUP FOR THE DOMINATION OF ASIA, UNDER THE NEXON DOCTRINE;
AND (C) THE EMPEROR'S VISIT TO THE U.S. IN RETURN COURTESY
TO PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO JAPAN WILL BE UTILIZED AS A TOOL
FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE REACTIONARY POLITICAL LINE OF THE
TANAKA CABINET. SHOHYO WILL EXPRESS ITS VIEW OF OPPOSITION
BBBY SUCH MEANS AS
THE DISTRIBUTION OF PROPAGANDA AND HANDBILLS."

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 12292 201042Z

3. COMMENT. GOJ LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS STATE THAT
OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IS SYMBOLIC AND LACKS RANK-
AND-FILE INTEREST OR SERIOUS LEADERSHIP PURPOSE IN AUTUMN
STRUGGLE WHOSE PRINCIPAL THRUST IS ECONOMIC. EMBASSY
ALSO DOUBTS THAT SOHYO EITHER CAN OR WILL LAUNCH MORE THAN
PRR-FORMA OPPOSITION ON ISSUE. WE ARE, HOWEVER, MAKING
INTENSIVE SOUNDINGS TO ASSESS SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS INITIAL
SOHYO POLICY STATEMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL VISIT AND WILL REPORT
FURTHER OUR JUDGMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. FYI, CBS CORRESPONDENT, BRUCE DUNNING, HAS ALREADY APPROACHED
EMBASSY ON QUESTION OF SOHYO'S OPPOSITION. EXPECT IT WILL
ALSO BE PICKED UP BY WIRE SERVICES.
SHOESMITH

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